

**From:** Peter A. Peterson II  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 4:23pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

My name is Peter A. Peterson II, and I work as a system administrator and technician in the Chicagoland area, and I want to register my displeasure with the Microsoft Settlement.

To anyone in the industry, it is clear that Microsoft calls the shots, especially in the consumer market, and more and more in the server and production market, and even now with their entrance into the home market through things like the Xbox and their new initiatives into creating "standards" (i.e. corporately controlled, revenue-generating systems) like the .NET initiative, as well as the near-total universality of the Internet Explorer browser -- Microsoft is and has a monopoly on some of the most vital portions of the information economy.

If this monopoly is to be regulated, then real, effectual penalties MUST be effected on the company.

I don't hate Microsoft -- a lot of their products are very good, and to a certain extent, they have gotten to where they have because of the quality of their products. But good products, or at least better products have become only products, where competitors cannot afford to actually be competitive with Microsoft.

And this says nothing of their draconian business practices in many realms. Even now Microsoft is crafting their proposals and plans to grow even larger and more powerful than they already are -- what kind of control over the information industry are they going to be given?

No, the penalties against Microsoft must have meaningful significance. I don't know enough to say what that would be, nor am I necessarily supporting the idea of dividing the company -- but in doing so, there is a clear, definite punishment and regulations to enforce the interactions between the companies. But with simple fines and reparations made, we only force microsoft to give back a small portion of the money that they have extorted from businesses, consumers, and other industry players, and their business practices will continue.

Please consider an alternative punishment for Microsoft.

Yours,  
Peter

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